

# THE TIMES-DISPATCH

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NOT UNINTELLIGENT, BUT UNINFORMED.

When a man is defeated fairly, we like to see him swallow his dose and the attitude of the Times-Dispatch towards the amendments of the Constitution since election is not to be commended. It's all over with, why don't you keep still? A correspondent would think, after reading the Times-Dispatch, that the citizens of Virginia were a set of ignorant nobodies, instead of being the most intelligent and best educated people in the whole United States.

That is the language in which the Buena Vista Times chooses to misrepresent the attitude of this newspaper in its only utterance bearing on the ratification by the people of the two amendments which remove the constitutional restrictions upon the tenure of the city treasurers and city commissioners of the revenue. The Times-Dispatch has said nothing at any time upon which any reasonable man could base an opinion that the people of Virginia are unintelligent and uneducated. What we did say was:

"The present form of ballot for constitutional amendments in Virginia is altogether inadequate. In fact, our system of submitting proposed changes in the organic law to the electorate is insufficient, because there is no correct and complete method by which the people can be informed as to what they are voting upon and what are the arguments on both sides of the issue to be decided. Thousands of voters yesterday doubtless balloted upon the constitutional amendments with the most possible knowledge of what effect the changes would have if passed; many others refrained from voting altogether, because they lacked any information as to the amendments. If the voters had been adequately informed, the result would have been more intelligently reached. So vitally important as a change in the supreme law of the State ought not to be wrought in confusion, misinterpretation, misunderstanding and ignorance."

In the election yesterday there were thousands of voters who were totally uninformed of the issues for the decision and the arguments for and against their action."

Nothing is said there upon which could be based an opinion that "the citizens of Virginia were a set of ignorant nobodies instead of being the most intelligent and best educated people in the United States." The most intelligent of men may be wholly uninformed on certain matters, and that such was the case with thousands of voters last Tuesday with reference to the constitutional amendments is a fact. No man can deny that thousands went to the polls without previous information as to the amendments and voted either in haphazard fashion for or against, or for the amendments at the suggestion of workers at the polls. The Times-Dispatch stated this fact, not by way of criticizing either the electorate or the result, but as a text for urging that the State officially inform the people before election of the amendments to be voted upon and on the arguments on both sides. This the State of Oregon now does.

Why did not the Buena Vista Times join the Newport News Times-Herald, the Richmond Journal and the Newport News Press as parties defendant to its indictment against The Times-Dispatch?

The Newport News Times-Herald, which opposed the position of The Times-Dispatch in the campaign on the amendments said last week:

"The day after election we commented on the fact that large numbers of voters in Newport News had voted on the constitutional amendments because they did not understand them and did not know how to vote intelligently. . . . The publication of the amendments one year before the election (takes place) should be made for three months immediately preceding the day of election in which they are submitted to the people. That would at least give the voters the opportunity to study the amendments and inform themselves."

The Richmond Journal, which was directly opposed to the position of The Times-Dispatch in the fight on the amendments, as were the Times-Herald and the Buena Vista Times, said after the election:

"The method of submitting amendments which now obtains is misleading and confusing in the highest degree, and it is probable that many persons, even of more than the average intelligence, were misled by the seeming import of the words 'for' and 'against' and voted contrary to their convictions. . . . A proposition to be voted upon by the people should not be in the shape of a conundrum. If the ballot had been prepared for the purpose of confusing voters or of reaching a result different from that intended by the voter who cast the ballot, a better scheme could hardly be devised than the way in which the ballots for the three amendments presented to the voters at the polls Tuesday were voted."

The Newport News Press, which fought the two amendments, said last week:

"Thousands of ballots (on the amendments) throughout the State were thrown out because they were improperly marked. In many cases voters who wished to cast their ballots one way cast them in the opposite way, simply because they were not told clearly to indicate to them what they were voting upon. . . . The words printed on the ballot conveyed absolutely nothing to the mind of the average voter unless he had followed the discussion of the proposed amendments in the newspapers. And a considerable percentage of the voters simply will not read such discussions. . . . As it is now,

the voting of amendments in Virginia, with a considerable percentage of the electorate, is simply cast in the dark with a hope that the vote was cast on the side of right. . . . The State should leave the voters on every constitutional amendment which is submitted."

The Times-Dispatch said that the present form of ballot on constitutional amendments is inadequate, and that a great number voted without sufficient information as to what they were voting upon or how they should vote to register their will. Those statements are corroborated by its contemporaries. The Times-Dispatch did not say that certain of the people of Virginia were unintelligent, but that they were uninformed upon the issues raised by the proposed amendments. It stated an evil and proposed a remedy—and it did nothing but that. It will continue to state evils and to propose remedies in the interests of the electorate, whose intelligence is a sufficient safeguard against the misrepresentation of The Times-Dispatch by the Buena Vista Times and other chronic assailants of its endeavor to serve the people of Virginia.

**REJECT ALL BIDS.**

The Street Committee has wisely decided to recommend to the Council that all bids for the proposed light and power franchise be rejected. The Times-Dispatch congratulates the committee on thus protecting to the full of its powers the interests of the city. Any other action would have urged the barter of great rights with no guarantee of adequate return in money or service from the successful bidder. If the majority report to be framed by the members will clearly and specifically point out the danger in this franchise, and give emphasis to the fact that a charter which puts the burden of proof on the people, and not on the corporation, is fundamentally wrong, this committee will have completed an admirable public service.

If the Council and the Board of Aldermen fail to see the wisdom and justice of this recommendation, and do not reject all bids, they will have to explain fully to the people of Richmond. Before the franchise was advertised, the subcommittee that gave seven months to a consideration of its provisions recommended that no such franchise be granted. Now a second committee declares against it. In the face of the facts as presented, The Times-Dispatch does not think the Council can refuse to consider the suggestion of its committee.

**THE NATION WANTS MONTICELLO.**

That the people of the United States want to honor the memory of Thomas Jefferson and perpetuate his ideals of Democracy by erecting his former residence at Monticello into a great public memorial is amply demonstrated by the imposing list of publicists, statesmen, educators and women leaders who have joined the Jefferson-Monticello Memorial Association. Further evidence of this widespread sentiment will be forthcoming in the petitions to be presented to Congress when it assembles in December. Almost universal approval of the plan warrants the belief that the estate will be secured. From President-elect Wilson comes a letter of indorsement, and every leader of importance in the Democratic party, including such different types as William J. Bryan and Charles Murphy, has expressed favor toward the acquisition. The minority in opposition seems to be limited to Jefferson M. Levy, present owner of the estate.

We appreciate that Mr. Levy does not want to give up his residence, even though it be only a summer home. But if Mr. Levy himself has caught any of Jefferson's spirit, can he fail to perceive that the essence of democracy is the rule of the majority, or that individual feelings must be sacrificed to the larger good? If Mr. Levy owned a plot of ground that happened to become of grave importance to the country as a part of the national defense, would he refuse to subordinate his ownership to his patriotism? If he did refuse, would not be forced to yield what the country needed?

The Times-Dispatch believes that the country is protected by high and lofty memories and great ideals even more potently than by the force of arms. Generations of Americans will be inspired by the memorial at Monticello to fight the arduous battles of peace for a broader democracy and a finer life. Monticello will not be a show-place, but a shrine. Young men will journey thither and gain strength and courage for the duties of carrying on the great work of the nation. For the sake of spreading the flame of Jefferson, the people are amply justified in relieving Mr. Levy of his stewardship at a fair price. We need Monticello as a part of the national defense—that invisible but potent bulwark of noble inspiration to protect against graft, injustice, oppression, corruption, dishonesty and time-serving in their insidious assaults on liberty and equality.

**PEACE IN THE HOLLOW OF HANDS.**

A great deal of stress is being laid upon the assertion that in the present situation Germany, as Austria-Hungary's ally in the triple alliance, holds the peace of Europe "in the hollow of her hand." Granted that Serbia will not recede from her demand for territorial expansion that will give her a port or ports on the Adriatic, the contention is that the question of a general European war being precipitated or averted rests with Germany, depends upon whether she will back her ally in attempting to thwart, by force of arms, Serbian ambition, design and purpose. "It is argued that at the last the responsibility of saying whether there shall be a general welter of blood is upon Berlin."

There is much in this view; but also

there is much in another view that obtrudes itself, and which is that almost equally Italy, the dual monarchy's other ally in the Dreabund, holds the peace of Europe in the hollow of her hand. Rome occupies a similar position of responsibility to that of Berlin. In the one case the issue is that of support; in the other that of non-support, or withdrawal of support; and in a large sense these are equivalents.

Italy is none too kindly inclined to sharing domination of the Adriatic with Austria-Hungary, and even as the balance is now adjusted the triple alliance is none too popular with the Italian masses. Admittedly, Italy is hardly in condition to oppose Austria-Hungary's pretensions in an open conflict, yet should she make the latter's abstention from intervention against Serbia the price of her remaining in the pact, both of her allies would be likely to take serious pause before drawing the sword.

Withdrawal from the triple alliance would mean a quadruple entente, and Italy's recently enlarged interests in the Mediterranean point in that direction, apart from other potent considerations. There would, therefore, seem justification for the optimistic forecast that when it comes to the supreme test, the crucial moment, not only will Germany and Italy recognize the terrible responsibility that faces them, respectively, and bring all possible pressure to bear on Austria-Hungary to halt, but the last named power will find a way, in consequence, of yielding gracefully.

In truth, as brightening further the outlook, when all is said and done, it is by no means certain that Rome's responsibility is not greater even than Berlin's, and that Italian awakening to a sense thereof would not be sufficient in itself to insure against Austria-Hungary's bringing on general hostilities. For Italy, as indicated, holds a whip hand over both her allies, and the moral voice of the world would acclaim it her duty to use it to say nothing of the encouragement she could count upon from the triple entente.

**THE CREEPING CHANGE OF CUSTOM.**

To a person who went blind four years ago what is the most impressive sight brought by restored vision in 1912? An Ohio club woman who had this experience answers—the change in feminine styles. Her exclamation was, "Such fashions! I never thought women could dress themselves to look so ridiculous. I cannot get used to that. The scantiness of the dresses is almost shocking." She also mentions as impressive the finer taste in architecture and the great difference in the automobile. Everything has improved save woman's dress.

Her whole testimony shows the constant imperceptible change that goes on in human customs almost daily, but which familiarity hides from those who share the mutation. To most observers, there is little apparent difference in the style of architecture to-day from that of four years ago. Nor can we remember nothing any definite variation in automobiles. Their greater number has not come upon us by thousands, but by ones and twos, and we got used to them at once. But the obliteration of even a single sense for 1,500 days affords a fresh standard of judgment. The ravages of time become visible.

In the matter of feminine modesty, the lapse from old ideals of modesty and refinement has not been unnoticed. Yet the nation has felt no distinct sense of shock as fashion or common sense decreed wider latitude in dress. We have changed within as well as without. Adjustment goes on constantly. So, perhaps there is no wide discrepancy between the spirit of the times and its symbols. We are not shocked, because we have admitted the new styles as proper. But the incident cannot fail to point the danger of the insidious, creeping vitiation of public morals by customs that steal upon us by degrees.

"And still the wonder is that Governor Mann fails to appoint the members of the Normal board. Not that the school suffers by reason of the delay, but that it is a public duty, which should have been discharged many months past," is the complaint of the Farmville correspondent of the Appomattox Times-Virginian.

Kadji Yamada, of Japan, has come to New York to compete for the billiard championship. On the face of it, wouldn't a Chinaman do better with a cue?

The board of visitors has acted wisely in starting a hunt for a new president for V. P. I. The man we want will not come unsought.

One of the dynamiters blew up the wrong place by mistake. We hope hereafter these workers for the uplift will be more careful.

The Bull Moose didn't break the solid South, but he got 2,000 votes in Mississippi. How Vandenberg must have snorted!

Have the new Congressmen from Danville, Illinois, isn't as hardened an old sinner as his predecessor.

King George of England writes on the typewriter. A lot of queens we know have been doing it for some time.

The Richmond College football team and the Democratic party broke their hoodoo the same week.

They advertise as an "all star" cast in these degenerate days what would have been only a "well-balanced company" before business got hold of the drama.

Police have come to Virginia in the fall to learn what real halcyon days feel like.

## On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

The Way to Richman.  
 Myrilla was a chorus girl  
 Who had her youth and health;  
 But, like a lot of others, she  
 Was rather shy of wealth.  
 She labored in the rank and file,  
 She had no time to speak;  
 She was one of the mob and got  
 Just twenty bones per week.

She practiced night and day upon  
 A new and flashy dance,  
 She had invented it herself;  
 At last she got a chance.  
 To try it out in vaudeville.  
 It wasn't very nice,  
 So managers made bids on it  
 And boosted up the price.

The papers knocked her little dance  
 And said it was not fit;  
 It was indecent, so they said,  
 There was no doubt of it.  
 Five thousand bones a week she got  
 And she was made a star;  
 She owns a chateau by the sea,  
 And a hundred-horsepower car.

She's got a splendid rope of pearls  
 And diamonds by the pound,  
 All gifts from princes, dukes and earls,  
 Who keep a-hangin' round.  
 She's got to quit the dancing game  
 And tackle the legit.  
 Ambition calls for Shakespeare now,  
 Sure! she will make a hit!

From the Hickeyville Clanton.

Mr. Amos Pringle, the eminent horticulturalist, has invented a system whereby his peach trees cannot be killed by frost during the severe winter months. He will build a large hothouse on his farm, and in the fall he will dig up all of his peach trees and transplant them in the hothouse, moving them back in the spring. He has figured that it will take only \$19 tons of coal to keep the hothouse warm during the winter months, and this, of course, is a mere bagatelle inasmuch as the peach crop is nipped, not only once, but generally eight or ten times, during the winter and spring. It would seem as though Mr. Pringle's suggestion might be universally adopted with very beneficial results. Mr. Pringle's plans are most completed, and he expects to have everything planned within a month or two, if his paper holds out.

Anson Frisbie, our local financial magnate, is playing golf for his health at this writing. It is the first time he ever did anything for his health around here.

Miss Amy Pringle is the best waltzer in this town, and she ought to be, because she is a Daughter of the Revolution.

Constable Ezra Hand has appeared on our streets with a new pair of left boots and arctic. Let the improvements go on. Grandma Perkins, who has a pair of pants, at the point of death for nine years, is digging a drain on the Anson Judson place, and expects to have it done before snow flies.

Those who are in arrears to this paper, whose names is legion, will please call and settle, as times is quite scarce at this writing. Your editor needs a new pair of pants, and the ones he used to have was stole off from him by a hack driver at Niagara Falls, and he had to come home in one of Mrs. Ye's skirts, which is all right for traveling purposes, but is rather awkward to work in around the office. Come one, come all.

## The V. P. I. Presidency

The Virginian-Pilot has received from the New York City Chapter, Virginia Polytechnic Institute Alumni Association, a copy of a resolution recently adopted by that organization, in which the board of visitors of the Institute are earnestly urged to select for the presidency of the institution a man of proven executive ability and widely known as a successful college president. "It is distinctly desirable," declares the resolution, "that this man shall have intimate knowledge of technical education and a wide acquaintance among technical men."

In this view every alumnus and friend of the Institute who wishes to see it attain to the maximum usefulness of which it is capable, cannot but concur. The V. P. I., as its name indicates, was established and is maintained for the purpose of providing facilities for giving the youth of the State education along technical and special lines—education which shall fit them to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities that are following upon the material development of the South. How well this purpose has so far been fulfilled is abundantly attested by the number of V. P. I. graduates who are to-day occupying positions of responsibility and trust in the mills and factories of various sections of the country, as superintendents of mines and electric plants and in the construction and operating departments of railroads. That the Institute may continue properly to carry forward the object of its existence and expand the sphere of its usefulness, it is nothing less than essential that the men constituting the executive head shall possess not only the general qualifications of an educator, but special knowledge and training along technical lines as well. Not to insist upon the latter, would be, in a measure at least, to put the Institute on the same footing with the other educational institutions in the State and so minimize, if not to destroy, the reasons for its separate existence.

In the light of these facts, the board of visitors cannot be too careful to see to it that the man chosen to take Dr. Barringer's place as president of

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## Swimming The Hellespont

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## News of South Richmond

### FALL TERM OF COURT

**Judge Southall Will Have Small Docket for Chesterfield Circuit Court.**  
 The fall term of the Chesterfield Circuit Court convened yesterday morning at Chesterfield Courthouse with Judge Robert G. Southall on the bench. A docket, the smallest in a year, was set. It contains but few cases of importance, the majority being appealed cases from the magisterial courts.

This morning evidence in the suit of Cawley against Ryder will be heard. The case has been pending more than three years. Timber rights are involved.

Cawley is represented by Judge J. M. Gregory and Conway Sands. D. L. Pulliam and Louis O. Wendenburg will appear for the defendant. Cawley, it is alleged in the declaration, had acquired the right to cut timber on Ryder's property. Ryder, after a time, alleged breach of contract, and secured an injunction restraining Cawley from shipping the timber. The injunction was dissolved and three suits have resulted. None have yet been tried.

**RECORDS IN DANGER**  
 Supervisors May Put Clerk's Office in Condition to Combat Fire.

At the invitation of the Chesterfield Board of Supervisors, contractors yesterday afternoon inspected the clerk's office at Chesterfield Courthouse, for the purpose of securing data upon which to make estimates for fireproofing the building. The supervisors at a previous meeting appointed a committee to secure the estimated cost of putting the clerk's office in an up-to-date condition.

Many precious records dating from Colonial days are now housed in a structure wholly inadequate to preserve them from destruction, either from fire or vandalism. The shelves upon which the volumes are stacked are of wood, and are the breeding place of insects which are liable to damage the ancient papers. The floors and ceiling are also wood. Should fire get any headway, they would be at the mercy of the flames, as there is no fire protection in the village.

**Want to Save Allens.**  
 A petition praying for a commutation of the Allens' sentence from the extreme penalty to life imprisonment is being circulated, and is gaining many signatures throughout South Richmond. William T. Laws yesterday made a canvass of the Southside with the paper, and was very successful in getting it signed. He will continue his labors until the petition is sent to Governor Mann.

**Local Opticians Unsuccessful.**  
 Although nearly two months have elapsed, the local opticians of Swansboro have been unable to get enough signatures to their petition to warrant Judge R. G. Southall, of the Chesterfield Circuit Court, ordering a special election to decide the fate of saloons in Manchester District. It was thought that an effort would be made yesterday.

**General News Items.**  
 The usual line of petty offenders faced Justice H. A. Maurice yesterday morning in Police Court, Part II, and the usual dose was administered. Henry Watson, colored; John Fortune and James Taylor were each sentenced \$2.50 and costs for being drunk.

Edward Fontaine, colored, charged with shooting crap, contributed \$5 into the city coffers.

Linwood Nicholson paid \$2.50 for disorderly conduct.

The suit of J. Muir against the city of Richmond was yesterday continued by Judge Ernest H. Wells, of Hastings Court, Part II.

The Cameron Store Company is having the building formerly occupied by the Blair Glass Company, at Twenty-first and Decatur Streets, remodeled. They will install their plant in the building at its completion.

Hull Street, for the entire length from Mary's Bridge to the corporate limits, is in a terrible condition, especially where the paving was taken up by the Gas Department when they put in the gas mains. Officer W. E. Wasmack, of the Third District, yesterday made a report of the bad places which will be sent to the City Engineer.

**Former Senator.**  
 Miss Ella Thompson, of New York, is the guest of Mrs. O. I. Merrill, of 1405 Hull Street.

E. B. Howie, who recently suffered a paralytic stroke, is greatly improved. W. D. Rice, State President of the Patriotic Sons of America, will pay an official visit to Washington Camp No. 32, Friday night at Robben's Hall, Swansboro.

**Friend of the People.**  
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—After the grand victory of the 5th and a bounteous rain on the 6th, drying and soaking of it into the defeated class, here's to you, with funds for a renewal of your excellent paper to me. Hope you will continue to spread the glad tidings which are coming our way in this progressive age. The mighty have fallen; the people are coming to the rescue; conscience will be restored, and great shall be the future.

**ONE OF THE PEOPLE.**  
 Thomasville, N. C.

**Final Agreements on Wednesday.**  
 (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Alexandria, Va., November 11.—Final agreements in the Alexander case will be made Wednesday morning before Judge E. T. Gordon, of Nelson County, and the Circuit Court for Alexandria County.

**PUT IT'S LABEL ON YOUR GOODS.**  
 Telephone MADISON 888 and ask CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

**NATIONAL STATE & CITY BANK**  
 111 EAST MAIN RICHMOND, VA.

## MONEY TALKS

NUMBER 13  
 Collateral is security deposited with a bank for the payment of borrowed money. When a customer borrows from a bank and turns over as security for the money borrowed bonds, mortgages or other evidences of debt, these securities are known as "collateral."

There is no reason why you should not make this Bank your Bank.

CAPITAL & SURPLUS \$,000,000.00